

social hygiene news



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United Funds Launch Campaign



Looking over plans for the biggest voluntary philanthropic appeal in the world, the United Community Funds and Councils campaign launched this month are J. Dan Benefiel, Director of Campaigns, United Community Funds and Councils of America, Inc., and Conrad Van Hyning, executive director of the American Social Hygiene Association. ASHA is one of thousands of health and welfare agencies to participate in the drive which will be carried on in communities across the nation. More than sixty million Americans will directly benefit from "the united way" of giving.

Mather Honored With LL.D. From Kenyon College

Philip Mather, president of the American Social Hygiene Association, was awarded an honorary degree of LL.D. by Kenyon College at its 128th Commencement in June.

Mr. Mather, one of thirteen distinguished Americans to be honored by the college, has long been a leader in health and welfare affairs.

A graduate of Yale University, he is treasurer of the National Health Council, board and committee mem-

ber of the United Community Services of Boston and the World Affairs Council of Boston, and board member of the Massachusetts Community Organization Service.

Included among other recipients of honorary degrees at the ceremonies were actress Katharine Cornell, producer-director Guthrie McClintic, and Clinton Rossiter, Cornell University professor and winner of the Bancroft Prize in American history.

Congress Increases VD Grant To States

As a growing number of cities and states are calling attention to local teenage VD problems, House and Senate Committees jointly recommended a \$500,000 increase for state venereal disease control activities.

This makes a total of \$4,170,000

Report Teen Trouble

In Los Angeles, Dr. George M. Uhl, city health officer, said that the number of reported cases of gonorrhea among young people under twenty years of age rose from 762 to 986 last year.

Dr. Adele C. Shepard, chief of the New Jersey State Department of Health's Bureau of Communicable Disease Control, said that the state's VD rate has shown an abrupt increase during the past two years, especially in the 14-24-year age group.

She estimated that one out of every 100 youngsters in New Jersey between the ages of 15-19 may be infected with gonorrhea.

slated for venereal disease control for the fiscal year 1957.

The increased appropriation represents a victory for health, labor and citizens' groups throughout the country who, together with the American Social Hygiene Association, emphasized the need for more funds to control a rising tide of VD in the nation.

The latest increase makes available a total of \$1,700,000 for grants of funds to states. Allocations will be made on a priority basis to those states with high VD incidence and to areas with increased VD rates.

Last year's federal appropriation for venereal disease control was \$3,500,000, of which only \$700,000 in funds went to the states.

Among organizations which worked
(Continued on page 8)

Dr. Fields Honored In Washington

Dr. Russell H. Fields, eminent physician and president of the Washington, D. C., Social Hygiene Society, was named an honorary life member of the American Social Hygiene Association at the annual meeting of the Washington unit in May.

ASHA Board Member Allan Johnstone presented the award to Dr. Fields in recognition of his twenty-five years of leadership in the fight against congenital syphilis.

Gerard Shea, Washington, D. C., Commissioner of Welfare, was principal speaker at the luncheon meeting, which was co-sponsored by the D. C. Social Hygiene Society, the United States Public Health Service and the Washington, D. C., Health Department.

Dr. Fields formerly was clinical professor of dermatology and syphiology at George Washington University Hospitals, a member of the VD Committee of the Medical Society of the District of Columbia, and chair-



Dr. Russell H. Fields

man of the health committee of the Council of Social Agencies.

He is a member of the Hippocrates-Galen Society, the Kober Medical Society, the Medical Arts Society, the Georgetown Clinical Society and the Washington Cosmos Club.

Sweeney Conducts Class

Esther E. Sweeney, ASHA's community service director, will conduct a workshop on personal and family living at New York City's New School for Social Research this fall.

Titled "Dynamics of Personal and Family Living; Continuity in a Changing World," the workshop is planned to help married people and those planning marriage to understand the social, economic and political factors affecting personal and family life today.

Among topics to be discussed will be marriage and women's careers, in-law relationships, the development of freedom and control in children, and ways of living creatively in today's threatened world.

The workshop will commence on September 27th and will be limited to twenty people.

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High School Matings Worry Schoolmen

While marriage among college students is now an accepted part of college life, the increasing number of high school marriages is causing concern among school administrators.

According to a study directed by Dr. Judson T. Landis, University of California sociologist and member of ASHA's education advisory committee, most high school principals feel that such early marriages are ill-advised and that married students create problems in the schools.

Dr. Landis and Kenneth C. Kidd, also of the University of California, reported the attitudes and policies of 286 California school administrators towards high school marriages in a recent issue of "Marriage and Family Living," journal of the National Council on Family Relations.

Although a few schoolmen considered married students assets to the school because they are more "stable, dependable and mature," the majority felt that they "create talk," expect special privileges, encourage other student marriages, drop out and attend class irregularly.

Ninety per cent of the senior high schools surveyed reported student marriages, with some girls marrying as early as the ninth grade.

Calling for a positive approach to the problem, Dr. Landis asked for more courses in family life education to prepare young people for the realities of marriage and family living. He urged that these courses be offered before the senior year.

"Preparation for marriage should improve the student's chances of success in marriage by helping him become more realistic about the responsibilities and obligations that marriage involves."

"Furthermore," he said, "courses in family living would meet the desired goal of preventing ill-advised marriages. Those who understand what marriage means will not see it as a quick and easy escape from problems in life."

MAGNUSON NAMED TO POST

Dr. Harold J. Magnuson, formerly head of operational research for the Public Health Service Bureau of State Services venereal disease program, has been appointed new chief of the Bureau's occupational health program.

Penicillin Reaction Rare, Health Service Says

VD patients very rarely show bad reactions to penicillin treatment, according to a recent study reported by the United States Public Health Service.

Of approximately 20,000 patients observed, penicillin reaction was seen in only 116.

The study was based on data furnished by physicians in twenty-four venereal disease prevention and control centers in fourteen states.

Penicillin reaction appeared to increase with the age of the patients up to age fifty and then to decrease.

Patients ten to nineteen years old tolerated penicillin better than those in older age groups, while patients fifty years of age and older showed more tolerance than those thirty to forty-nine years of age.

A complete report of the study, titled "Penicillin Reactions in a Venereal Disease Clinic Population," is available from the Superintendent of Documents, U. S. Government Printing Office, Washington 25, D. C.

Urge Social Hygiene For Early Grades

The current problem of high pregnancy rates among junior high school girls in Washington, D. C., might be partly solved by starting social hygiene classes in elementary schools.

So said Wallace P. Gant, Jr., first Negro to serve on the board of the city's Congress of Parent-Teacher Associations, in a recent interview published in the *Washington, D. C., News*.

"Social hygiene education should begin before junior high school," Mr. Gant believes.

"But," he added, "it will be a slow process, and probably it would be a couple of years before conditions would improve."

Other steps which Mr. Gant recommends to solve the problem include teamwork between PTA's and public school authorities, localized programs of education for parents of junior high school pupils, and widespread publicity about the situation.

"Invader" Seen By 60,000 In New Mexico

More than 60,000 school children in the state of New Mexico have seen "The Invader," award-winning documentary film on the history of syphilis.

How this was accomplished in eight months' time was told by Dr. Bernard F. Rosenblum, director of the New Mexico State Department of Public Health, to the First International Symposium on Venereal Diseases held in Washington last spring.

"The Invader," produced by the Center for Mass Communication of Columbia University Press, was previewed and endorsed by the New Mexico Parent-Teacher Association, the Catholic Archbishop and the Ministerial Alliance before it was suggested as a health education tool in the schools, Dr. Rosenblum said.



Dr. Bernard F.
Rosenblum

These endorsements plus emphasis on communicable disease education helped account for the film's outstanding acceptance, he said.

Dr. Rosenblum outlined two major steps in his successful presentation of the film to public, parochial and private schools.

(1) The health department sent letters to school and PTA officials telling of VD conditions in the state and suggesting that "The Invader" be shown as an effective control measure.

(2) PTA groups were invited to preview the film and told it would be presented to students by a member of the health department staff.

"The response was immediate and overwhelming," Dr. Rosenblum reports.

"We were swamped with requests, and because of 'The Invaders' success in New Mexico we recommend it as an integral part of any venereal disease control education program."

VD GRANT

(Continued from page 1)

with ASHA toward obtaining an increased VD appropriation were the American Legion, AFL-CIO, the American Venereal Disease Association and the Association of State and Territorial Health Officers.

Family Relations Workshop At Work



Teachers go to school at the Family Relations Workshop held this summer at North Carolina College at Durham, N. C. A phase of ASHA's Education for Personal and Family Living project, the workshop was one of three sponsored by ASHA this summer. Shown above are Mrs. Helena Payne of Templeman, Va.; Mrs. Robert Reeder of Charlotte, N. C.; Mrs. Gertha Gibson, of Rockingham, N. C.; Dr. Joseph Himes, North Carolina College, and Mrs. Gelatia W. Taylor, Durham, N. C.



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AMERICAN SOCIAL HYGIENE ASSOCIATION
Social Hygiene News

Massachusetts Unit Elects Officers

Colonel Taylor Honored By ASHA

Dugald S. Arbuckle, professor of education, Boston University School of Education, was elected president of the Massachusetts Society for Social Hygiene at its recent annual meeting.

Other new officers of the Massachusetts group are Rhoda Milliken, vice-president; Mrs. C. Douglas Mercer, secretary, and Leonard Kaplan, treasurer.

Newly elected executive committee members include Dean Charles H. Buck, Jr., St. Paul's Cathedral; Mrs. Phillip Cowin, Boston University School of Social Work; Dr. Nicholas J. Fiumara, director of division of venereal diseases, State Department of Health; Dr. Volta R. Hall, psychiatrist, Massachusetts General Hospital, and Mrs. Evengeline H. Morris, director of the Simmons College School of Nursing.

Others are Wesley G. Spencer, educational consultant, Cambridge; Francis Burns, Boston Globe; William B. Elmer, Wheeler Reflector Company; William W. Howells, professor of anthropology, Harvard University; Dr. Kenneth I. E. McLeod, health commissioner, Worcester; Rt. Rev. Norman B. Nash, Bishop of Massachusetts; Russell G. Oswald, commissioner, State Department of Correction, and Dr. Leon Sternfeld, health commissioner of Cambridge.



Colonel Harold L. Taylor, Fourth Army Provost Marshal, is shown above accepting an honorary life membership in the American Social Hygiene Association from Frank H. Heller, ASHA Board Member, as Edward J. Conroy, luncheon chairman and executive vice-president of the Research and Planning Council of San Francisco, looks on. The honor was conferred upon Colonel Taylor at a luncheon held in San Antonio, July 23rd. Hundreds of civic, business and military leaders were on hand to pay him tribute for his outstanding contributions in bringing civilian and military leaders together to work for the well-being of the young men under his jurisdiction. Principal speakers were Hon. J. Edwin Kuykendall, Mayor of San Antonio; Lieutenant General J. H. Collier, Commanding General, Fourth Army, and Major General H. T. Bassett, Commander of the U. S. Air Force Security Service.